

U R B A N   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L  
O F   C H A R L T O N   K I N G S

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1949

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STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health:

STEPHEN KNIGHT  
M.B., B.S.(Lond), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.


Sanitary Inspector:

F.A. MIDDLETON  
(part-time).



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CHARLTON KINGS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hares, Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health of the District for 1949.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population, 5,899, shows a slight decrease this year.

The Birth Rate, 13.7 per 1,000 of the population is lower than the national rate, 16.7, while the Death Rate, 13.4 per 1,000 of the population, is higher than the national rate, 11.7.

In previous reports attention has been drawn to the relatively high death rate and low birth rate in Charlton Kings. The explanation offered was that both these features were due to the very high proportion of elderly people in Charlton Kings.

This view is confirmed by the Registrar-General in that this year he has given an area comparability factor, 0.77, by which the crude death rate, 13.4, must be multiplied to obtain the corrected death rate, 10.3, before comparing it with rates elsewhere.

When the necessary correction has been made in the local rate it will be seen that it compares favourably with the rates of other districts.

The infantile death rate, 62. deaths per 1,000 live births, is considerably higher than the record low figure, 32., for England and Wales.

There were in fact five deaths in infants under one year of age, but it will be seen that the rate has to be calculated on 1,000 births so that any discrepancies are greatly magnified.

When the circumstances of each death were scrutinised it was found that all the babies died in the first month of life. Now the causes of death in this neonatal period are the causes of still birth, viz., prematurity, malformations, birth injury, toxæmia of pregnancy. While there were five infantile deaths during the year there were no still births. It is true that the infantile mortality rate is 62., but the still birth rate per 1,000 births is Nil, as compared with the County's infantile mortality rate, 30., and still birth rate, 20. per 1,000 births.

The District was remarkably free from all forms of serious infectious disease during the year under review.

The housing allocation for 1948 was twelve houses, these were completed before March, 1950, making a total of sixty-eight built by the Council since the war. Permission was given to start another twenty-four houses during the year and these are in the course of construction.

The Council made byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption, and in connection with the sale of food or exposure for sale in the open air.

The Byelaws should prove a useful instrument in the hands of the public health staff and the food trades, leading to an all round raising of hygienic standards.

Illness due to food infections has become much more frequent in recent years and continues to increase.

I desire to thank members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, and my colleagues for their willing co-operation and assistance in preparing this report.

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT.

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1950.



CHARLTON      KINGS      URBAN      DISTRICT      COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for  
the Urban District of Charlton Kings for the year 1949.

## GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	3,399.
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident population - mid 1949	5,899.
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1949) according to Rate Books	1,744.
Rateable Value, March, 1950	£41,544.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£166.18.10d.

# VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1949.

## LIVE BIRTHS

			<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	...	...	79.	44.	35.
Illegitimate	...	...	2.	1.	1.
Total	...	...	81.	45.	36.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population ... 13.7

# STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	...	...	-	-	-
Illegitimate	...	...	-	-	-
Total	...	...	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	Nil.
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	Nil.

## DEATHS

79.            41.            38.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population ... 13.4

Area comparability factor	...	...	...	0.77
---------------------------	-----	-----	-----	------

Corrected Death Rate ( $13.4 \times 0.77$ ) per 1,000	...	...	10.3
of the population	...	...	

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live &amp; still) births</u>
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
No. 30 Other Maternal Causes	1	12.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE  
(Infantile Death Rate)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate ... ..	5.	3.	2.
Illegitimate ... ..	-	-	-
Total ... ..	5.	3.	2.

ALL INFANTS per 1,000 Live Births ... 62.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following table shows the causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics:

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Typhoid & Para. Fevers	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-
6. Tuberculosis - Respiratory System	-	-
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	2.	-
8. Syphilitic Diseases	-	-
9. Influenza	-	-
10. Measles	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	-	-
12. Acute Infect. Encephalitis	-	-
13. Cancer (Bucc. Cav. ) (Oesophagus (M) ) (Uterus (F) )	-	1.
14. Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	-	-
15. Cancer of Breast	-	1.
16. Cancer of Other Sites	-	3.
17. Diabetes	1.	-
18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	4.	5.
19. Heart Diseases	14.	16.
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4.	1.
21. Bronchitis	3.	1.
22. Pneumonia	-	1.
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-
24. Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	1.	1.
25. Diarrhoea under two years of age	-	-
26. Appendicitis	-	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases	-	-
28. Nephritis	1.	1.
29. Puerperal & Post Abortion Sepsis	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	-	1.
31. Premature Birth	2.	-
Total carried forward	32.	32.



	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total Brought Forward	32.	32.
32. Congenital Malformation - Birth Injuries Infantile Disease, etc.	1.	2.
33. Suicide	1.	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents	1.	-
35. Other Violent Causes	1.	1.
36. All Other Causes	5.	3.
 TOTAL	 41.	 38.

Total both Male and Female - 79.

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES FOR  
THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	15.5	16.1	15.4	16.7	13.7
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	12.2	13.3	16.0	13.0	13.4
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,00 live births)	23.0	52.0	54.0	50.0	62.0
(Deaths of Infants under one year)					

FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY  
RATES OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC. ARE GIVEN BELOW

	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>	<u>126 C.Bs. and Great Towns</u>	<u>County of Gloucester- shire</u>	<u>Charlton Kings U. D. C.</u>
Live births	16.7	18.7	17.5	13.7
Still Births (per 1,000 popn)	0.39	0.47	0.36	Nil
-do- (per 1,000 total births)			20.0	Nil
Death rate (per 1,000 popn.)	11.7	12.5	11.91	13.4
Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 year). (Per 1,000 Live Births).	32.0	37.0	30.05	62.0
Deaths under 2 years of age from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (per 1,000 Live Births)	3.0	3.8	2.2	Nil

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

1. INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

General Statistics

The following tables shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Under</u>		<u>1 - 5</u>		<u>5 - 15</u>		<u>15 - 25</u>		<u>25 and</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>1 yr.</u>		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	3.	1.	-	-	-	-	3.	1.
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	2	4	1	-	8	-	-	-	-	5.	11.
Measles	-	-	2	3	2	3	-	-	-	-	4.	6.
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1.	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1.
Cerebro Spinal F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1.
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2. TUBERCULOSIS.

The following cases were notified during the year:

	<u>Children</u>		<u>All Persons.</u>
	<u>0 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	
Tuberculosis Notifications, 1949:			
Pulmonary	-	-	7.
Non-Pulmonary			
(1) Glands	1	1	2.
(2) Bone & Joint	-	-	-
(3) Abdomen	-	-	-
(4) Other Organs	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-
Tuberculosis Deaths, 1949:			
Pulmonary	-	-	-
Non-Pulmonary			
(1) Glands	-	-	-
(2) Bone & Joint	-	-	-
(3) Abdomen	-	-	1.
(4) Other organs	-	-	1.
Meningitis	-	-	-

The number of cases on the Register, 31st December, 1949 was as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>			<u>All</u>
<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Forms.</u>
						<u>Total.</u>
19.	12.	31.	7.	3.	10.	41.

Nine fresh notifications were not an exceptional number for the district.

There were two deaths from Tuberculosis, neither of the people who died had been notified as suffering from tuberculosis before death.

In one case it was not practicable to make the diagnosis before the onset of the fatal illness.

### FOOD POISONING

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

### CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS

In order to bring home to the public and the food trades the importance of clean handling of food every opportunity is taken of giving addresses on this subject to the general public, especially the local women's organisations.

### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944 was implemented by the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, which came into force on the 1st October, 1949. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries became responsible for the registration of Dairy Farms and Producer-Retailers; supervision of Pasteurising Establishments passed to the County Council; both these functions were formerly carried out by the District Council, now, only the licensing of Dealers Premises is left to them.

### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

During the year, fifty-six children were immunised for the first time and eighty-five were given a boosting or re-inforcing injection on entry to school. Only rarely does a parent refuse to have a child immunised, the proportion of immunised children is higher each year, by the end of 1949 82% had been treated as against 77% in 1948. It is by this means that the District continues to enjoy its freedom from diphtheria. Every effort must be made to maintain the readiness with which parents accept immunisation.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

Number of children who have completed a full course of Immunisation up to 31st December, 1949:

Age at 31/12/49 e.g. born in year	<u>Under</u> <u>1 yr.</u> <u>1949</u>	<u>1.</u> <u>1948</u>	<u>2.</u> <u>1947</u>	<u>3.</u> <u>1946</u>	<u>4.</u> <u>1945</u>	<u>5-9</u> <u>40/44</u>	<u>10-14.</u> <u>35/39</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Under</u> <u>15.</u>
Number Immunised	( 12	54	80	70	47 )	( 402	352 )	1,017
Estimated mid-year population, 1949			438				803	1,241

## DIPHTHERIA OTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN RELATION TO IMMUNISATION

There were no cases and no deaths from diphtheria.

### GENERAL PROVISION FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

#### Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Service is maintained by the County Council and is obtained from Cheltenham Control Station (phone Cheltenham 3112) and in emergency dialing "999" or "0" to the local Exchange and asking for "Ambulance Service".

The Ambulance Service is supplemented by a valuable hospital car service which is available for taking patients to and from appointments in connection with the National Health Service when public transport is not practicable. Requests for this Service should be made to the Control Station at Cheltenham, giving 48 hours notice of the requirement.

#### Nursing in the Home.

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the Health Committee of the County Council. Information is available from the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings, Telephone No. Cheltenham 3614.

#### Addresses of District Nurses:

Nurse M. Clifford, "Bermarlee", Little Herberts Road,  
Charlton Kings. Telephone : Cheltenham 52523.

Nurse D. Garlick, "Harlyn", Cirencester Road, Charlton  
Kings. Telephone : Cheltenham 52900.



### Child Welfare Centre.

Meetings of the Charlton Kings Child Welfare Centre are held in the Baptist Church Hall, Church Street every Tuesday at 2.30 p.m.

### Home Help Service.

This Service, which is organised by the County Council, has proved to be of great value to the community. The Home Help takes over the running of the home when the housewife is temporarily incapacitated. A charge is made according to a scale of assessment.

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made through the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings, or to the Home Help Office, 77 Promenade, Cheltenham, telephone : Cheltenham 53121.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

#### Section 47 - Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

Although no application was made to the Court under this Section, it has been necessary to visit a number of old people from time to time.

The Home Help Service is of great assistance to many lonely old people; a little timely help and the provision of a meal is often sufficient to enable them to carry on in their own homes.

The plight of these old persons is usually brought to notice by relatives, neighbours and District Nurses, but some routine method of visiting is required so that bad cases can be assisted in the early stages.

### WATER SUPPLY

The Urban District is within the statutory water supply area of the Cheltenham Corporation Water Undertaking. The supply is satisfactory both as regards quantity and quality. Two consumer samples were taken on behalf of the U.D.C. and found to be satisfactory. Three samples were taken from private supplies and appropriate action taken.

27 houses were connected to the public water mains, 15 new houses and 12 existing houses.

The following table gives the position with regard to a public piped supply:-

<u>Total</u>		(a) <u>Direct to</u> <u>house.</u>	(b) <u>By Stand-</u> <u>pipe</u>
1,744	No. of houses ) supplied by (	1,585	7.
5,899	No. of population ) public mains (	5,547	24.

#### SECTION 20, HOUSING ACT, 1949.

Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949 empowers local authorities to make grants to private owners for the provision of dwellings by the conversion of houses and other buildings and for the improvement of existing dwellings.

Application for grant must

- (a) be made to, and approved by, the authority before work is begun;
- (b) include full particulars of the proposed works and of the property on which the works will be carried out, together with plans and specifications and an estimate of the cost.

The local authority must satisfy themselves that:

- (i) the resulting dwellings will provide satisfactory housing accommodation for at least thirty years;
- (ii) the applicant has either a freehold interest or a leasehold interest in the property for an unexpired term of at least thirty years; and
- (iii) the dwellings will conform with such requirements with respect to their construction and physical condition and the provision of services and amenities as the Minister may specify.

No application for grant under this Section was received during the year, although a number of houses in the area might well qualify for such grant.

#### SECTION 2, HOUSING ACT, 1949

No application was made to the Council under this section for action to be taken to quash a demolition order. The provision is a temporary one relating to houses where demolition orders were made prior to 1st January, 1946, but as the result of works carried out since the Demolition Order was made, are considered fit for human habitation.

Applications must be made by July, 1950.



REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

F.A. MIDDLETON.

1. Inspection of Dwellings Houses during the year:
  - (i) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... .. 21.
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 54.
  - (ii) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... .. -
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. -
  - (iii) Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. 1.
  - (iv) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. 18.
2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices ... .. -  
  
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers. ... .. 16.
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year ...
  - A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936;
    - (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs
    - (ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:
      - (a) By Owners ... ..
      - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..
  - B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-
    - (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 17.
    - (ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices
      - (a) By Owners ... .. 2.
      - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... -

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936:

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. 1.

(ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. 1.

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made -

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part 4 - Overcrowding:

(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... .. 4.

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases... 28.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Cowsheds and Dairies:

Number of visits made to cowsheds and dairies (to 1st October, 1949) 64.

Bakehouses:

Number of visits made to bakehouses 21.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (FACTORIES ACT, 1937)

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:

(a) Number of Factories without mechanical power on register ... .. 10.

(b) Number of Factories with mechanical power on register ... .. 18.

Number of visits to factories ... .. 25.

Number of written notices ... .. 1.

Number of defects found ... .. 1.

Number of defects remedied ... .. 1.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

The following quantities were found to be unfit for human consumption:

Eggs	...	...	...	...	30 doz.
Tinned goods	...	...	...	...	53½ lb.
Other Foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	25 lb.



